

Amendments to the claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

Amendments to the specification:

Please add the following new paragraph before the paragraph “Field of the Invention” beginning on page 1, line 5:

-- CROSS-RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a divisional application based on US Application No. 09/529,919, filed April 21, 2000, entitled “Magneto-Optical Recording Medium, Manufacturing Method Thereof and Magneto-optical Data Recording and Playback Device” in the name of inventors Akinori Furuya, Hiroshi Yoshikawa, Takaya Tanabe, Manabu Yamamoto, Toshifumi Ohkubo, Laurent Bouet, Philippe Tailhades, Corine Despax-Bonningue, Abel Rousset, commonly assigned herewith. --